

HOW CAN a team beat a Football League Division Three club one day and then, just three days later, lose to a Rothmans Isthmian League side who are in the lower half of the table?

We were given the answer on Saturday when Wycombe Wanderers, after their historic 2-1 triumph over Bournemouth, threw away a 2-1 lead and let in two goals in the last four minutes to give Kingstonian a victory they will cherish for years. On the day, they deserved this victory, which will certainly raise a few eyebrows. They worked harder than Wycombe, combined more as a team and ran themselves into the ground for their success.

Wanderers were not prepared to match that work rate, began the game as if they were not really interested and when they eventually woke up, they relaxed their grip and ended the day pointless. It was only their third defeat of the term.

But when one analyses this defeat, I suppose it is not really the shock it may seem at first glance. After all, the Blues must

mentally exhausted after the Bournemouth game. With all the publicity and glowing superlatives showered over them, Richmond Road, Kingston, must have been a bit of a let-down. The crowd, 5,000 strong at Dean Court was now a mere 500 or so, the pitch and at-

There were a couple of changes in the line-up, Paul Birdseye moving into midfield to take the place of the injured Mick Hollifield, and Paul Griffiths wearing the full back shirt.

From the outset it was obvious this game meant a great deal more to Kingstonian than Wycombe. They never stopped

out but Keith Mead cleared before he got there. Maskell had presumably called for the ball and had a few harsh words to say to his defender. While he was doing so, he took his eye off the ball and the next thing he saw of it was Jeff Hunn's crashing volley which clipped the crossbar.

when Horseman crossed from the bye-line, but no-one was there to knock the ball home and the same player skidded a shot just past the upright.

One incident in the second half really brought home the difference between this match and the cup-tie at

later. Wycombe pulled back a goal with a simple, but beautifully executed goal. Mead took a free kick which he sent deep into the goalmouth. Keith Searle rose above the defence as he had for much of the afternoon — and nodded on for Horseman at the far post. As always, Tony took his time before beating the goalkeeper.

That equaliser brought the best out of Wycombe. Horseman sent a diving header just wide and then Perrin forced a full-length save from 'keeper Ian Bath. With 77 minutes gone Brian Lee brought on Dylan Evans for Griffiths, with Birdseye moving to his normal full back position, this switch presumably meant at all-out attack for the winner.

In the 84th minute, it seemed to have worked perfectly as the Blues scored their second goal — another well executed move. Evans took a throw on the right and spotted Birdseye sprinting through unmarked. He took the ball to the bye-line before crossing gently over the defence to Perrin at the far post. Steve's head did the rest.

So, despite a mediocre performance, Wycombe had done enough — or so it seemed.

But, only two minutes after going ahead, Wanderers found themselves back on level terms. Cook took the ball towards the corner flag and crossed into the middle where Bob Adaway stole in and slotted home with the defence caught square.

Just when most people had resigned themselves to a share of the spoils, up popped Adaway again — this time in spectacular fashion. Cook slung over a harmless looking cross to Adaway, some 30 yards out from goal. Without even looking up, he took a swing at the ball and watched joyously as it flew over Maskell's despairing leap and into the back of the net for a sensational winner.

WYCOMBE: J. Maskell; P. Griffiths (sub D. Evans 77 mins); K. Mood, A. Phillips, G. Hand; P. Birdseye, T. Beardon, H. Kennedy; A. Horseman, K. Searle, S. Perrin.
KINGSTONIAN: I. Bath; T. Mahon, A. Kellsall, P. Procter, P. Dada, D. Casey, J. Hunn, R. Adaway; M. Cook, R. Fruen, C. Morris, Sub D. Clark (not used).
Referee: C. Greover (Woking).
Half-time: 0-0. **Goalscorers:** Wycombe: Horseman (68), Perrin (84), Kingstonian: Morris (49), Adaway 2 (86, 90).

By STUART EARP Kingstonian 3, Wycombe Wanderers 2

mosphere were entirely different and there was a strong wind to make football difficult. To complete the picture, there were 11 men in red shirts determined to put one over the newly crowned kings of the amateur world. A Wycombe defeat was really on the cards.

This, however, does not excuse the lack of effort from the visitors in the first half, which incidentally ended goal-less. Some of the players just didn't seem to want to get into the game and it was only after half-time and, no doubt, a few words from manager Brian Lee, that they really worked at their game at all.

running, shouting and harassing throughout the 90 minutes. Phil Dade and Micky Cook both went close for the K's before Tony Horseman flashed a header just past the post in the 14th minute. "Bodger's" effort instilled some fire into Wanderers and both Steve Perrin and Keith Searle went close. But with Kingstonian quickly into the tackle, the Blues had little room to manoeuvre and consequently went off the boil.

Closest effort of the half came from the home team. From a free kick, Cook floated the ball towards the six-yard box. Goalkeeper John Maskell came

The second half gave far better value to the spectators. Five goals were split between the teams, the first coming with the half just four minutes old.

Colin Morris, a 16-years-old youngster, making his debut, showed plenty of skills by beating Griffiths near the flank. He then fired in a cross-shot that struck Gary Hand and ended up in the net. A minute later it was almost 2-0 when Ronnie Fruen back-headed Cook's corner towards the far post but Dade was unable to get any power behind his shot.

Wycombe, shaken by Kingstonian's all-out attack in the early stages, came back

Bournemouth. It came when a Kingstonian player headed the ball over the goal-line and over the fence behind the goal. There were only six spectators there and none of them moved to fetch it. John Maskell, therefore, had to run round and into the building site where Kingstonian are building a new clubhouse to collect it, taking the 'keeper at least half a minute. That sort of thing would never have happened at Bournemouth!

In the 66th minute Kingstonian almost made it 2-0 when Hand's hooked clearance fell to Cook but Maskell parried the shot well and then three minutes